

Student may face dual penalties

BY JAKE BLEED
Senior staff writer

A 19-year-old University of Nebraska-Lincoln student arrested Nov. 19 for sexual assault faces punishment from both the university and the Lancaster County Court.

Fred M. Sacco III, an Omaha native, was charged Nov. 23 with two counts of first-degree sexual assault on a child.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen said Sacco could also face punishment for violating the student code of conduct.

University police arrested Sacco for having sex twice in his Cather Residence Hall room with a 14-year-old Lincoln girl he met on the Internet, University Police Sgt. Mylo Bushing said.

Section 4.11 of the UNL student code of conduct states that sexual assault "or any other uninvited behavior of a sexually explicit nature" is punishable by a variety of sanctions, including expulsion.

Griesen said the punishment Sacco faces depends on how the student dealt with the crime, if there were major disagreements about the facts of the case and if the student admitted to violating

the code of conduct. The case may not even go before UNL's Judicial Board, Griesen said.

Punishment could vary between "everything from a warning to expulsion," Griesen said.

If the university decides to punish Sacco, the proceedings will take place independent of any decisions reached in Lancaster County Court, Griesen said.

"If someone violates our code of conduct, we take appropriate action," Griesen said.

If convicted in county court, Sacco faces up to 50 years in prison on both counts.

World and Nation Datelines

Washington

Workers to protest against World Trade Organization

SEATTLE (AP) - International labor leaders began their protest campaign Sunday against the World Trade Organization in hopes of forcing delegates to address workers' rights during this week's trade talks.

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions organized a conference for labor unions. Other demonstrators - with interests ranging from protecting the environment to ending farm subsidies - began to gather in Seattle.

The labor activists are among as many as 50,000 demonstrators expected before the start of the four-day trade negotiations Tuesday.

Trade ministers from 135 nations will be greeted by banners, marches and street theater against what activists say is WTO's sweeping powers to enforce international trade agreements.

Cuba

Cuba says Coast Guard knew boat might be having trouble

HAVANA (AP) - Cuba said Sunday it had warned the U.S. Coast Guard that a boat carrying 13 people was heading for the United States coast - three days before survivors of the doomed voyage were found.

The Coast Guard began searching for survivors from the small power boat on Thursday after fishermen two miles off Fort Lauderdale, Fla., found 5-year-old Elian Gonzalez and two adults clinging to an innertube.

Coast Guard officials said the boat capsized Tuesday.

Three survivors and seven bodies had been found by the time the search was called off on Saturday.

The Coast Guard on Sunday confirmed it received the Cuban message on Nov. 22 and searched for two days without success.

"We did act on that," said Coast Guard Lt. Ron LeBrec. "We used several aircraft and boats to patrol their possible track lines."

Northern Ireland

British official expects IRA disarmament after changes

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) - On the eve of forming a long-elusive new government for Northern Ireland, Britain's senior official in the province said Sunday that he trusted Sinn Fein leaders to deliver speedy Irish Republican Army disarmament as part of the deal.

Four parties, including the IRA-linked Sinn Fein, are expected to nominate candidates today for a 12-member Protestant-Catholic Cabinet, the key objective outlined more than 1½ years ago in the Good Friday peace accord.

The breakthrough was made possible by the Ulster Unionists, the province's major British Protestant party, deciding Saturday to drop their

demand for IRA disarmament before forming the new administration.

Washington, D.C.

National Zoo's panda

Hsing-Hsing put to sleep

WASHINGTON (AP) - The giant panda Hsing-Hsing, the endearing symbol of the opening of U.S.-China ties and the enduring favorite of millions of visitors to Washington's National Zoo, was put to sleep early Sunday after a losing battle with time and illness.

Hsing-Hsing, who was suffering from non-reversible kidney disease and other ailments of old age, was 28, well beyond a panda's normal life expectancy.

Hsing-Hsing, a male, and Ling-Ling, a female, arrived at the zoo in April 1972, a gift from China following President Nixon's historic visit to Beijing in February that year. Ling-Ling died of a heart attack in 1992 after giving birth to five babies in four pregnancies. None survived more than four days.

With Hsing-Hsing's death there are only five giant pandas in American zoos.

Philippines

Southeast Asian leaders

plan economic recovery

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - Eager to put their financial crisis behind them and concerned about fast-changing security issues, Southeast Asian leaders outlined plans Sunday to strengthen the economic recovery into the next century, bolster their political clout and nip conflicts in the bud.

After two straight summits in which the focus was on immediate problems, leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations looked to the future.

They were heartened by what they saw, even though difficult impediments remain, including the need to continue painful economic reforms.

There were even dreams of a time when a united East Asian bloc

could rival the United States and the European Union.

Such talk would have drawn incredulous looks just a year ago.

But all ASEAN members are reporting economic growth this year, the worst of the crisis that began in 1997 appears over, and China, Japan and South Korea are eager to cooperate.

ASEAN leaders issued a joint statement at the end of their summit, in which they pledged to speed up trade liberalization, backed Indonesia's efforts to end a separatist movement in its troubled Aceh province and heard Japan's plans for another \$500 million worth of grant aid to the region.



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